



PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

AGENDA REQUEST

AGENDA OF:	10/9/07	AGENDA REQUEST NO:	IV B
INITIATED BY:	LISA KOCICH-MEYER, SENIOR PLANNER <i>LM</i>	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT:	PARKS AND RECREATION
PRESENTED BY:	SABINE SOMERS-KUENZEL AND KIMBERLY TERRELL	ASSISTANT PLANNING DIRECTOR:	N/A
		ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT. HEAD (S):	JOE CHESSER, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION <i>JAC</i>

SUBJECT / PROCEEDING:	UPDATE OF THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS MASTER PLAN PUBLIC HEARING, CONSIDERATION AND ACTION
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EXHIBITS:	EXCERPTS FROM CHAPTER 5, GOALS 5 AND 9 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, RECOMMENDATION EXCERPTS FROM THE HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS MASTER PLAN
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CLEARANCES		APPROVAL	
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LEGAL:	N/A	DIRECTOR OF PLANNING:	SABINE SOMERS-KUENZEL <i>AK</i> AICP
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RECOMMENDED ACTION			
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Hold a Public Hearing and recommend approval of Hike and Bike Trails Master Plan update to City Council			
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY			
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The City of Sugar Land Charter requires all City master plans to go to Council with a recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Your role in these cases is to review the proposed document for coordination with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The current Hike and Bike Master Plan was adopted in 1998. The reason for the update is primarily due to the rapid growth of the City and because trails have been identified as a high priority in the 2005 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and are identified as an objective in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The main goal of the Hike and Bike Trail Master Plan is to plan a connected system of off-street and on-street routes for pedestrians and bicyclists for exercise, recreation and mobility. The plan focuses on linking portions of the City together as well as connecting neighborhoods to parks, schools, libraries, shopping areas and other

areas of interest.

The process, which has been guided by Parks and Recreation Department staff and consultants from Half Associates, includes input from all of the levee improvement districts in Sugar Land, many homeowners associations, and a Hike and Bike Task Force made up of Sugar Land residents. On April 25, 2007 a public meeting was held at City Hall with a presentation that outlined the scope of the Hike and Bike Master Plan. Attendees provided input and feedback. Staff is also coordinating efforts with the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and the Sugar Land Pedestrian/Bicyclist Special District Study that H-GAC and Public Works are conducting.

A workshop was held at the September 27, 2007 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Staff provided an overview of the goals and objectives of the master plan, the process followed including community input received, and a review of the key trails through the City. The Commission had general questions regarding any opportunities for trails in the Sugar Creek subdivision. Some of the Commissioners know that there are a lot of people who walk in that neighborhood but noticed there were not any trails called out in that area of the City. The Commission recommended taking a look at an easement on Montclair in the Sugar Creek neighborhood as an opportunity for a potential trail.

EXHIBITS

Excerpts from the City of Sugar Land Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 5, Goal 5: Transportation and Mobility

Provide a multi-modal transportation system that economically accommodates the convenient, efficient, and safe movement of people and goods while working to maintain neighborhood integrity.

Objectives and Strategies:

- I. The City should develop an “integrated mobility system” that is seamless (internal and external to the City); inclusive of pedestrian traffic, bicycle traffic, vehicular traffic, airport users, mass transit and any form of transportation, optimizing the existing network.
 - A. Identify the components of an “integrated mobility system” by investigating opportunities and benefits from various modes of transportation.
 - B. Encourage and support feasible modes of transportation through communications, private/public partnerships, facilities, etc.

Chapter 5, Goal 9: Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Open Space

Provide a park system that meets the total recreation and leisure needs of the community. Identify, protect and preserve open spaces and critical natural areas.

Objectives and Strategies:

- I. The City should identify the desires and needs of the community to continue to provide and establish the appropriate programs, services, land use, and facilities for the City.
- IV. The City should continue to seek, maintain, and utilize open space designed for both passive and active recreation.
- VI. The City should develop and promote cooperative partnerships in an effort to provide and maintain park and recreational opportunities.
- C. Work with Levee Improvement District Representatives for development of trails and/or other facilities within common areas.

Excerpts from the Hike and Bike Trails Master Plan

Section F: Recommended Trail Priorities

High Priority Trail Projects are the following:

- First Colony Trail from First Colony Park to the Town Center
- The Ditch H trail from Highway 59 to Highway 6
- The Ditch H trail from Highway 6 to Imperial Park
- The Sugar Mill Park to Eldridge Part trail
- The Power line trail from Palm Royale Boulevard north to Highway 6
- The Dulles Avenue Parkway trail
- The Brooks Street Parkway trail from Imperial Park to Highway 6, and connections to the Lake Pointe trail system
- The dam crossing at Lake Pointe
- Initial segments of the Brazos Trail
- Parkway trails along North University Boulevard and the southern extensions of University Boulevard
- Two bridge crossings of Ditch C at Colony T-2 and T-4.

Section G: Implementation Timeframe

Implementation Timeframe 2007-2027

The overall recommendations of this Trail Master Plan are estimated to take up to 20 years to complete. The following sequence or hierarchy of actions is recommended to implement the Citywide Trails Master Plan.

- Consider acquisition of trail corridors as the highest priority
 - Consider embarking on an extensive trail development schedule over the next 10 years
 - Average the construction of 1 to 2 miles of trails per year for the next 10 years
 - Develop strategies to work with private sector development
 - Review and Update the Citywide Trails Plan annually
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